

NOTE ON BLANCHARDIA MACULATA, Castelnau.

THIS fish was described as a "small sort of *Muraenidæ*" by Count Castelnau on p. 47 of a paper published in 1875 and entitled "Researches on the Fishes of Australia." A short time ago when examining some dried specimens of small fishes in the Queensland Museum I found a specimen labeled as above, which I believe to be Castelnau's type; my reasons for this belief are threefold—(1) The specimen is of the size given by Castelnau; (2) Castelnau's species is not included in the list of his types in the Paris Museum as sent by M. Eugène Bouvier to the Australian Museum; and (3) Castelnau states that certain of the species described by him in this paper belonged to "two collections of fishes, one from Queensland and one from Cape York, sent to me for examination by Mr. Staiger, the curator of the Brisbane Museum"; presumably this is one of the first mentioned collection. The identity of this so-called muraenid has always been a puzzle to Australian workers, and this find is therefore valuable as proving that *Blanchardia maculata* Castelnau is merely a synonym of *Nolograptus guttatus* Günther. That Castelnau took his description from a dried specimen, as seems to have been the case, would fully account for the discrepancies between Günther's and his generic descriptions, namely—his failure to find the tubular anterior nostrils, the barbel, and the ventral fins.

J. D. O.